

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 071712

41

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /079 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GRUECKERT:SK

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR/CE - MR. DAVIS

EUR/SOV - MR. BARRY

----- 036220

P R 291813Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071712

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST CAMERA DROPPED FROM US AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) USBER 436; (B) USBER 587; (C) BONN 4924

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC AND AEAAG-AP

1. SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR VORONTSOV CALLED ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MARCH 28 TO PROTEST US PHOTO-
GRAPHING OF SOVIET ARMY UNITS REPORTED REFTELS. HARTMAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 071712

INDICATED WE WOULD LOOK AT SOVIET STATEMENT AND REPLY IN

DUE COURSE.

2. TEXT OF SOVIET STATEMENT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. ON MARCH 6, 1975 AT ABOUT 2:00 P.M., EUROPEAN MEAN TIME, IN THE AREA OF KRAMPNITZ (THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC) A FOREIGN LIGHT-MOTOR PLANE WAS MAKING FLIGHTS OVER THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE, WHEN A JAPANESE-MADE PHOTOCAMERA NIKON FELL DOWN OUT OF THE PLANE.

THE STUDY OF THE EXPOSED PARTS OF THE FILM HAS SHOWN THAT MILITARY OBJECTS OF THE SOVIET ARMY UNITS WERE PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE AIR.

ACCORDING TO THE APPLICATION TO THE BERLIN AIR SECURITY CENTRE A LIGHT-MOTOR PLANE, TYPE L-20 BELONGING TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN WEST BERLIN WAS FLYING OVER THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE AT THE MENTIONED TIME.

IN THIS CONNECTION I AM INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A PROTEST AGAINST THE FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS BY THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE ESTABLISHED ORDER AND CONDITIONS OF FLIGHTS OVER THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE AND AGAINST USING AIR CORRIDORS FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES, WHICH CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF FOUR-POWER ALLIED AGREEMENTS OF THE WAR AND POST-WAR PERIODS.

THE SOVIET SIDE EXPECTS THAT THE US MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO RULE OUT THE REPETITION OF SUCH CASES IN THE FUTURE AND WILL ALSO STRICTLY PUNISH THOSE GUILTY OF ABUSING THE AIR CORRIDORS. END TEXT.

3. WHILE VORONTSOV WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT HE WAS MAKING SERIOUS POINT, THERE WAS SLIGHT ELEMENT OF LEVITY IN HIS PRESENTATION. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED WHY THEY RAISED THIS INCIDENT IN WASHINGTON AND PARTICULARLY AT HARTMAN LEVEL. IT MAY BE INTENDED TO CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE CURRENTLY VIEWING ALL BERLIN MATTERS WITH HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY AND IS INDICATIVE OF THEIR DESIRE TO DOCUMENT ANY INCIDENT IN BERLIN AIR CONTROL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 071712

ZONE AND CORRIDORS AS POINTS WHICH COULD BE RAISED IN FUTURE TO SUPPORT THEIR CASE THAT FOUR-POWER DISCUSSIONS OF ENTIRE BERLIN AIR REGIME ARE NECESSARY.

4. WE INTEND ANSWER SOVIET STATEMENT IN DUE COURSE ALONG LINES OF USBER STATEMENT REFTEL B AS AMENDED REFTEL C. WE WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT REPORT ON ANY SOVIET REACTION TO ALLIED RESPONSE IN BASC. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE071712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GRUECKERT:SK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750110-0692
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975034/aaaaadae.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBER 436, 75 USBER 587, 75 BONN 4924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS PROTEST CAMERA DROPPED FROM US AIRCRAFT
TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR
To: USBERLIN BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006